

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7087

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a mentorship program designed to help minority and women-owned small businesses build their capacities and access to contracting opportunities in the construction industry.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Ms. CLARKE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a mentorship program designed to help minority and women-owned small businesses build their capacities and access to contracting opportunities in the construction industry.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR MINORITY AND**  
2 **WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH**  
3 **RESPECT TO CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES**  
4 **IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

5 The Small Business Act is amended by redesignating  
6 section 44 as section 45 and by inserting after section 43  
7 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 44. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR MINORITY AND**  
9 **WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH**  
10 **RESPECT TO CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES**  
11 **IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall estab-  
13 lish a program for the purpose of assisting eligible small  
14 business concerns build their capacities and access to con-  
15 tracting opportunities in the construction industry.

16 “(b) GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERN-  
17 MENTS.—The Administrator may make grants to State  
18 and local government entities to assist such entities—

19 “(1) to establish or expand mentorship pro-  
20 grams designed to carry out the purposes of this sec-  
21 tion,

22 “(2) to identify problems and solutions regard-  
23 ing eligible small business concerns in the construc-  
24 tion industry, and

25 “(3) to establish performance goals with respect  
26 to the mentoring program.

1       “(c) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator shall  
2 provide support and resources to entities receiving assist-  
3 ance under this section, including training and marketing  
4 materials and assistance in joint marketing and outreach  
5 campaigns.

6       “(d) FREE COURSES.—At a minimum, mentoring  
7 programs receiving assistance under this section shall pro-  
8 vide free courses to learn about managing the full project  
9 life-cycle, bidding opportunities on the Federal, State, and  
10 local levels, and guidance in bidding on construction  
11 projects and meeting the requirements of awarded con-  
12 tracts.

13       “(e) ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—For  
14 purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible small business  
15 concern’ means—

16               “(1) any small business concern owned and con-  
17 trolled by women (as defined in section 8(m)), and

18               “(2) any small business concern owned and con-  
19 trolled by socially and economically disadvantaged  
20 individuals (as defined in section 8(a)(4)).

21       “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Entities receiving assist-  
22 ance under this section shall report annually to the Ad-  
23 ministrator on their activities under this section.”.

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